Rough draft, mf

BARNET RESNICK, ESQ.

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH
AUGUST 2011
ALL ABOUT PRIME NUMBERS

Prime numbers were originally invented in the year 300 B.C. by the Greek mathematician named Euclid of Alexandria—according to the famous Wikipedia website. Only two numbers are valid when trying to divide them without leaving a remainder of anything: itself, and the number 1 (such as 7 is divisible by 1 and 7—without a leftover remainder).

Only one even number is prime: the number 2.

Only one number that, when added together over and over, is divisible by 3, 6, or 9, and is prime: the number 3.

Only one number ending in the digit 5 is prime: the number 5. (Starting with 7, all prime #'s in ascending order will end in either 1, 3, 7, or 9. Any number whose last digit is a 5. or any even number, is not a prime number—and all numbers ending in an even number divide by 2 without a leftover remainder.

Here is a list of all of the prime numbers that are valid between 1 and 150—there are exactly 35 of them:

2 3 5 7 11 13 17 19 23 29 31 37 41 43 47 53 59 61
67 71 73 79 83 89 97 101 103 107 109 113 127 131 137 139 149

And finally, here is the world's largest prime number (which will be limited to the first 500 digits following its first single digit), as discovered at the University of Utah in 2003—known as the 39th Mersenne Prime which has a total of 4,053,946 digits (whose square root number is 2,013 with a remainder of .4413—when using a calculator)!

m39 = 9 24947 73800 67013 22247 75838 25476 64051 92535 44010 79958 29902 10309
36080 29565 65805 59610 04761 31215 55730 58464 90245 42650 47654 19020 97669
79058 27672 54479 29026 15806 67487 15669 67166 87781 57814 83854 68287 40682
13904 67694 27809 51774 59820 81094 86314 67725 76296 25700 34225 39582 11451
17842 91740 45553 09456 56656 94021 03759 68977 73451 04671 90634 46067 80985
34559 34820 44157 14816 57162 38608 28858 17169 58496 15443 47147 17468 37130
67595 48487 67748 85808 57871 52804 52544 45185 14554 00990 77754 62950 81187
75475 30309 83715 00921 63396 73550 74023 20792 65361 38198

all correct!

For the record, the world's largest non-infinity number is googolplex which is 1, followed by about 500,000 consecutive zeroes (if not any other number from 1 to 9).

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Thoughts for the Month—April 2012

MEET THE 1962 METS

Fifty years ago the New York Mets, winners of two World Series in their history, were born. But most people remember them for what happened in 1962, and here are a few interesting facts on what the Mets, who were 40-120, and some unusual moments:

Before their first-ever game in history, against the St. Louis Cardinals, a publication book mentioned that 16 members of the '62 Mets were—are you ready for this?—stuck in an elevator! (It took them twenty minutes to get the men out of the elevator.) But before they would go to the ball park, they had been informed not to bother. The game was rained out. (They played the next day and lost to the Cardinals, 11-4. Their first win finally came on April 23, 1962 beating Pittsburgh, 9-1 after losing their first nine games.) New York would never win four consecutive games, and they lost 17 in a row—six short of the major league record of 23 set by the 1961 Phillies. And they allowed 948 runs—an average of over five per game!

The '62 Mets would only beat the Dodgers twice and the Pirates twice; another game ended in a 7-7 tie at Houston, meaning New York actually played 161 games. (The cross-town Yankees won the World Series over San Francisco in seven games.)

They actually did not drop permanently to 10th place until May 30, and were 12-19 and in eighth place the week before!

Casey Stengel was reported taking a nap during some games played at the Polo Grounds, the Mets' home for their first two years until moving to Shea Stadium in 1964. Stengel was the only man ever to be a member of four New York-based teams—he played for the Giants in the 20's, managed the Dodgers in the 30's, and then the Yankees from 1949 to 1960, winning 10 American League pennants and seven World Series championships, but as Mets manager, before retiring in 1965, never finished out of last place. He also was best remembered for calling them "The Amazin' Mets", and their most popular player was Marv Throneberry.

The Mets made 210 errors in the 1962 season, and were held hitless in one game against the Los Angeles Dodgers—and their ace lefthander, Sandy Koufax. (They still have never had a pitcher throw a no-hitter 50 years later!)

Ed Kranepool was the only player to be with the Mets in both 1962 and 1969, the year they won their first World Series. (Gil Hodges also was with the Mets in both years, but it was as a player in 1962, and as a manager in 1969.)

Pitchers Roger Craig and Al Jackson both lost 20 games or more for the 1962 Mets; Craig started with uniform number 38 but the following year changed his number to 13—bad luck! (Craig lost 18 consecutive games for the Mets in a two year-period!)

When the Mets moved out of the Polo Grounds to be at Shea Stadium after the 1963 season (that year's team was shut out thirty times!), guess where Tom Seaver was at the time? He was already playing pro baseball in Alaska in 1964, the same year that state had two unforgettable moments: an earthquake struck Anchorage, and a then-unknown Sarah Palin was born.

Catcher Harry Chiti was traded during the 1962 season to the Mets by the Cleveland Indians for a player to be named later. The player's name was...Harry Chiti who still was the only player ever to be traded for himself!

And finally, another Mets catcher who would never forget playing in New York was Choo Choo Coleman, a married man who was asked by a reporter, "What is your wife's name—and what's she like?" Choo Choo said to the reporter: "Her name is Mrs. Coleman, and she likes me."

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Thoughts for the Month—May 2012

TYPEWRITERS v. COMPUTERS

Do you remember when EVERYBODY in the office used typewriters, while anyone who thought that computers should replace the typewriters—as early as 1962—would have been told two words: NO WAY!

But there are many differences between the two devices, of course—starting with the keyboard. Fifty years ago, there were no more than 86 different characters to type (the comma appeared on both the top and bottom of one key; the same thing applied to the period). Not every typewriter had the keys where you would type the exclamation point (!), the number 1, the plus sign (+), and the equals (=) sign.

(You would have used the letter L to make the 1, the apostrophe, backspace, and period for the exclamation point; the diagonal, backspace, and minus/hyphen for the plus sign, and the minus/hyphen, backspace, cylinder roll, and minus/hyphen for the equals sign.)

Also don't forget that a lot of typewriters didn't even have a plug-in cord, and that made it a lot slower to type 30 words in one minute, and the ribbon can be used back-and-forth until the ink faded. Any typewriters that still exist now use one-time-only ribbons, of course! They even had two "shift lock" keys appearing on both the left and right side, before it was replaced by the large carriage return key that eliminated the extra "shift lock" button.

Now there are over 500 different characters on just one font style, and the sizes had gone from two choices (pica and elite) to 16 choices (size 8 to size 72 on many computers), but in the 1960's, there was no such thing. In fact, the symbols @, _, *, ", and ', all appeared elsewhere on the typewriter. The @ sign, before it was over the number 2, was sitting on top of the cents sign on the third row of the keyboard. The _ was over the number 6; the * was over the -; the " was over the number 2; and the ' was over the number 8. And the computers all hide the cents sign, which until maybe 1994 was over the number 6, on purpose, partially because it's quite difficult to find anything under one dollar! (There was an exception to the rule: in 1969, a Sears catalog offered a typewriter that had all 88 characters—two commas and two periods—but on top of the 6 was an eggcrate <u>without</u> a cent sign!)

Worst of all, we had to correct our mistakes on paper, sometimes using bottles about the size of 5-Hour Energy products, and the work was so ugly to see! Now you can look on the computer, and know that if you see a mistake, you would correct it and avoid further mistakes. And don't forget that the Internet in 1962 was only a dream; now we just can't live without Yahoo, E-Bay, Facebook, Twitter, Google, et al.

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Thoughts for the Month—July 2012

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

It all started on July 4, 1776—which for followers of the calendar fell on a Thursday. That was the day the United States was born, of course.

But as most people should know, the United States flag did not always carry 50 stars on it. The first U.S. flag had only 13 stars in a circle on a blue square in the upper-left corner, and the stylized number "76" on the bottom inside the square. Next to the square was thirteen alternating red-and-white stripes—seven in red, and six on the bottom—but it wasn't always that exact number.

The colors red, white, and blue were imported from the British flag that had already existed for many years before the birth of the U.S.A. (Of course, Britain will be hosting this month's Summer Olympics for the first time since 1948!)

Since then, the American flag has gone many changes, with the 13 stars and stripes meaning the original 13 colonies—it was Delaware first, Pennsylvania second, New Jersey third, and continued until the 13th colony, Rhode Island, was added to the first 12 colonies. Then one day, it was decided that the regional portions of the U.S.A. should not be colonies, but states, as soon as more and more places were added.

When a new state joined the Union, a star would be added to the flag every July 4th of the same year, or the next year, depending on when statehood was granted. You may know that West Virginia did not exist until 1863. Why? Because it originally was part of the state (or actually commonwealth) of Virginia, which had to secede from the Union during the Civil War under the administration of Abraham Lincoln!

When Virginia rejoined the Union in 1863, a portion of that state was renamed West Virginia and was declared the 35th state. But President Lincoln only would live two more years to enjoy the luxury of 35 states in the country, of course—he was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865. (Kansas was the 34th state admitted to the Union.)

In the 20th century, five states were added to the Union—Oklahoma in 1907, New Mexico and Arizona in 1912, and finally Alaska and Hawaii in 1959. Our present 50-star flag would finally fly over the nation's capital in Washington, D.C. for the first time on July 4, 1960. It has remained this way longer than any American flag design in history.

Happy 236th birthday to the United States of America on July 4th!

BARNET RESNICK, ESQ.

Thoughts for the Month—September 2012

CASTING OUT 9'S

Fittingly enough, September begins a school year and for over a century, everyone who is under the age of 18 should know that the three primary subjects are: Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic (also known as "the 3 R's").

But when you see a table of numbers running from 1 to 81, you will know that a specific numerical pattern always exists. The number zero alone adds up to nothing, of course. But every whole number (no fractions or decimals) that follows zero will always have this pattern: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9. Let us explain why.

The first row or column has the numbers 1 to 9. When doing each number in adding up the sum of those digits, the result is: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9. The second row or column has the numbers 2 to 18. The result of the first four numbers are: 2 4 6 8. But the following number, 10, adds up to 1 because 1 + 0 = 1. The rest of the numbers, 12-14-16-18, add up to 3, 5, 7, and 9 respectively.

The third row or column has the numbers 3 to 27. The 3, 6, and 9 add up to themselves, but 12 is 3 (1 + 2), 15 is 6 (1 + 5), and 18 is 9 (1 + 8). So are 21 (2 + 1 = 3), 24 (2 + 4 = 6), and 27 (2 + 7 = 9). In short, every time you multiply by 3 and continue, you will always get 3 6 9, 3 6 9, 3 6 9.

The fourth row or column has the numbers 4 to 36: The 4 and 8 add up to themselves; 12 is 3, 16 is 7, 20 is 2, 24 is 6, 28 is 10 which becomes 1, 32 is 5, and 36 is 9 (4 8 3 7 2 6 1 5 9).

The fifth row or column has the numbers 5 to 45. The 5 becomes itself, the 10 becomes itself followed by 1, the 15 is 6, the 20 is 2, and the 25 is 7. (The rest of the fifth row is 3 for 30, 8 for 35, 4 for 40, and 9 for 45—they never can add up to ten; so the pattern for 5's goes like this: 5 1 6 2 7 3 8 4 9.)

The sixth row or column has the numbers 6 to 54. The 6 becomes itself, 12 becomes 3, 18 becomes 9, 24 becomes 6, 30 becomes 3, and 36 becomes 9. Only the numbers 6, 3, and 9 apply for the 6's.

Here are the rest of the number patterns, with a big surprise: 7's—7 (itself), 14 (5), 21 (3), 28 (10 = 1), 35 (8), 42 (6), 49 (13 = 4), 56 (11 = 2), and 63 (9). 8's—8 (itself), 16 (7), 24 (6), 32 (5), 40 (4), 48 (12 = 3), 56 (11 = 2), 64 (10 = 1), and 72 (9). But for the 9's table—it's but simple: every answer, when multiplying by 9, just adds up to the number 9—surprise!

Barnet Resnick, Esq--Thoughts For The Month—December 2013

It Only Happened Once (Remember we are now going green!)

This year, an unusual thing had happened: for the first time since 1888 (currently 125 years ago), the Jewish holiday, Hanukkah, started before Thanksgiving Day!

In 1943, due to World War 2, the U.S. mints in Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Denver made zinc-colored pennies instead of copper, which was reserved for the war itself. They also were the only coins that were magnetic. The pennies have been minted in copper every year since 1944.

On Saturday, November 2, 1889, two states were admitted to the Union: North Dakota and South Dakota, which made them the 39th and 40th states with ten more to go. (Seventy years later, the last two states, Alaska and Hawaii, joined the United States as the 49th and 50th states in the same year--1959. Puerto Rico applied for statehood over 40 years later, but was unsuccessful.)

In 1917, Ernie Shore was the only player in baseball history to pitch a perfect game by recording 26 outs instead of 27. The starting pitcher walked the first batter, then argued with the umpire so much, that he was thrown out of the game. Who was that pitcher? It was of course, Babe Ruth! Shore caught the runner trying to steal second base before he faced the 26 batters who all made outs. Sadly, the "perfect game" was changed in 1991 to a combined no-hitter.

Our 15th president, James Buchanan, was the only president who was never married. By contrast, Grover Cleveland was the only former U.S. president (22nd and 24th) to be re-elected to the same office; Zachary Taylor was one of only two presidents whose last year in office ended in an even #. (The other was of course, Richard Nixon—the only president to resign from office.)

The first Super Bowl, played on January 15, 1967, was the only such game to be aired on two different TV networks at the same time—CBS, and NBC. (Green Bay beat Kansas City, 35-10.)

And Chubby Checker's song "The Twist" which was originally recorded in 1960, was the only song to be number 1 in two different calendar years after taking a year off from the top spot.

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